



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, V CORPS
UNIT 29355
APO AE 09014

AETV-GAS

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: V Corps Accident Reduction Emphasis (CARE) Roundtable #1 AAR

1. The first V Corps CARE Roundtable was conducted on 14 September 2004 at the Pavilion on Patrick Henry Village (PHV) from 1000 to 1500 hours.

2. All V Corps MSC's and Brigade Separates were tasked to provide members. The 1AD has established their own forum and not participating directly with the other units. The 1AD AAR for their 15 October 2004 meeting is in Appendix A.

3. Summary of first Round Table:

a. The session was opened with introductions. The members participated in open discussion regarding their thoughts as to why POV accidents occur. They identified issues such as carelessness, distractions, boredom, alcohol, fatigue, unfamiliarity with roads, speed, weather, unfamiliarity with emergency actions with a POV, such as skid recovery.

b. The Soldiers were then divided into two groups of four. Each group was given a Centralized Accident Investigation (CAI) briefing from a POV accident recently investigated by the United States Army Safety Center. They were given four questions that assisted them in breaking down the accident to identify: What happened; why it happened; could it have been avoided; what would you do to prevent future accidents. Each group was self-facilitating. The groups then presented their observations to the roundtable for open discussion. The last phase of the day was to re-address causes of accidents. Additional causes were; attitudes such as invincibility, "Done it before, Can do it again", peer pressure, lowered tolerance to effects of alcohol caused by deployment, catching up on partying.

c. The V Corps Deputy Commanding General addressed the roundtable. The DCG expressed his appreciation for their participation and charged each of them to be a positive influence on safety when they return to their unit. He stated, "Even one Soldier lost is too many and that he is deeply concerned for the safety of Corps troops during every long weekend due to the risks to Soldiers and family members operating POVs when alcohol and fatigue are involved. He also stated, "While it is difficult enough for a Commander to loose Soldiers to hostilities; it is far worse to loose them unnecessarily to accidents."

d. The roundtable was then asked how to reduce the likelihood of POV accidents. The following Soldier perceptions and recommendations were discussed:

SOLDIER PERCEPTION #1: Soldiers do not trust their Chain-of-Command.

- It was noted that there is significant lack of trust and respect throughout the ranks. Soldiers felt that they could not approach unit leadership when they drink too much. They had various concerns about reprisal. Additionally, there were comments and perceptions about different penalties for higher ranked offenders. Inconsistencies in command reaction cause doubts.

SOLDIER PERCEPTION #2: Unit Safety Briefings are not effective.

- Members felt that safety briefings were impersonal and often done to "Check the Block". The incident briefed showed the Soldiers involved missed the safety brief and the Command never followed up to ensure they were briefed. They felt that making the briefings more personal and realistic would improve them. They recommended that the briefings be conducted by peers in a setting supervised by a section sergeant.

SOLDIER PERCEPTION #3: Soldiers do not think their Chain-of-Command cares about them.

- NCO participation needs to be taught and encouraged. First line supervisors must be aware of high risk subordinates and get involved by monitoring their activities. On the first nights following major redeployments it was recommended that an NCO monitor Soldier's quarters.

ADDITIONAL SOLDIER COMMENTS:

- Soldiers stated that excessive drinking is part of Army culture particularly among lower ranks and single Soldiers. They recommended that public awareness spots be generated to show the affects of alcohol on the body similar to those used to show the affects of tobacco use and drugs.

- **When asked if their Units utilized a Designated Driver program most members responded that they were not familiar with it.** A couple of Soldiers stated that they used it themselves, but not under command direction. All members **present felt that for the Designated Drivers Program to work, Soldiers who perform the duty must be rewarded.** They felt most Soldiers won't voluntarily give their party time to "Baby Sit" other Soldiers and not drink themselves unless there is a reason too. Most agreed that recognition for successful duty with an incentive award for safety or a compensatory day off would significantly improve the program. Additionally, there is an element of education that will occur as Soldiers "On duty" observe those drinking and see the effects of alcohol from a sober point-of-view. Another positive is that this program places sober personnel on site to monitor activities and call for assistance when things get out of hand. They could act as form of "courtesy patrol" if empowered by the Command to do so. **Based on this round table, the Designated Driver Program appears to be non-functional.**

- All roundtable members felt that the session was a very positive, beneficial experience. They enjoyed the open forum without rank. The atmosphere was open and receptive to all thoughts presented. Each Soldier expressed their appreciation for MG Wojdakowski taking time out of his schedule to share his thoughts on safety. Overall they felt it was a very profitable and enlightening session.

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4. The next Safety Roundtable will convene on 16 November 2004 at the Patrick Henry Village Pavillion in the Victory Room from 1000-1500 hours.

5. The CARE Round Table agenda will be expanded to not only include POV accident prevention initiatives, but also incorporate ACV/AMV accident prevention discussion.

6. Point-of-Contact is CW4P Bob Petty, V Corps CARE Program Director/Aviation Safety Officer at 370-5664 or Robert.petty@hq.c5.army.mil .

10. VICTORY CORPS!



EDWARD J. HOFFMAN
GS-14, V Corps Safety Director

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